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## THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE EXAMINATIONS.

*The First General Examination* under the plan proposed one year ago by the American Institute of Sacred Literature is over. The results as a whole are very encouraging. From all sides come eager inquiries as to the next examinations. Those who succeeded in forming groups send unsought testimony, "It was stimulating," "It has taught us our weakness," "We wish to begin work at once for the examinations of 1891." A real interest in Bible Study has been awakened in all places where the plan has gained a foothold. The Institute will therefore broaden its work in this line in 1891. It will, in future, in addition to the one or two general examinations each year, offer a special examination to any person, or group of persons, upon any Biblical topic and will award certificates for all meritorious work. It will also offer each year special examinations in Hebrew, and in Biblical subjects, to Colleges and Theological Seminaries.\*

*Two general examinations* for 1891 will be offered upon the following subjects :

1. The Gospel of John. As this Gospel will be taught by the Institute in its Bible clubs and correspondence courses throughout the year, and will also be taken up by the International Sunday School lessons in July 1891, such an examination is desirable.

2. The Life of Christ based upon the four Gospels. A course covering this ground will also be taught by the various departments of the Institute and in addition to this, many Sunday Schools throughout the country are adopting the Blakeslee lessons upon this subject. There will therefore doubtless be many applicants for this examination.

The work of preparation for these examinations is designed to be much or little as each candidate may decide for himself. The questions† are therefore offered in four grades. (1) The *Advanced* grade for ministers, theological students, and persons who have done close and critical work ; (2) the *Progressive* grade, for the members of adult Bible classes who have done a less amount of work upon the subject ; (3) the *Intermediate* grade for Bible classes, the members of which are fifteen to twenty years of age ; (4) the *Elementary* grade for those who are ten to fifteen years of age.

The two lower grades will deal with facts and simple teachings. The higher grades in addition to these, touch upon questions which demand more thoughtful answers.

For the work in the Gospel of John, a reasonable knowledge will be required of (1) the teachings of Jesus ; (2) the history, manners and customs of His times ; (3) the peculiar view of Jesus' life as given by John ; (4) the Book of John as a literary production, its purpose, style and peculiarities.

For the second examination, some knowledge will be desirable of (1) the de-

\*Full announcement will be made in March STUDENT.

†Send enclosing stamp for specimens of the questions of the Examination in Luke which is just over.

tails of the Life of Jesus ; (2) the history, manners and customs of His time ; (3) the teachings of Jesus and the great purpose of His work ; (4) the practical and doctrinal teachings suggested by His life and work.

*Special helps.* Careful study of the Sunday School lessons in either of these subjects ought to be a sufficient preparation for the test, but great assistance and the ability to take a higher grade of the work may be gained by organized study in Bible clubs.\*

A special examination direction sheet will be supplied to all examiners and their classes. This will contain special suggestions for work and, for each course, valuable outlines of the subject with directions for following them out.

There is also a special series of Inductive lessons upon each of these subjects. These can be procured through the Institute at a nominal price. These lessons take up the work by the Inductive method and give the student the best possible grasp of his subject.

*The Time* of these examinations will be the same in all parts of the world, viz., about January 15th, 1892.

*The Number of Places* where these examinations will be held is limited only by the number of ministers and competent persons who are willing to act as Special Examiners. One thousand of these are already enrolled, and it is hoped that this number will reach five thousand during this year. To the unremunerated labor of this great corps of examiners, the success of the last examination is largely due, but for each examiner there remains the reward of increased interest in Bible study among his examinees, and for his people unexplored fields of study.

Individual examinees have thus far been most difficult to adjust, as, many times, the nearest special examiner is unavailable. The Institute will therefore allow an individual candidate to solicit a minister in his own town to act as his examiner and to send the name of this minister to the Institute with his application for the examination.

The certificates awarded for this work will be of three classes, the answers being graded on a basis of ten. All papers having a grade of *seven* will entitle the writer to a certificate. Papers graded from 7 to 8.5 will receive B or second-class certificates ; papers from 8.5 to 10, will receive A or first-class certificates.

*The Fee* for each candidate for one of these examinations will be 50cts. This fee is to be paid to the special examiner, who, at the same time has the privilege of offering the examinations to persons who are not enrolled as examinees. Should such persons, after trying the examination, wish to become candidates for a certificate, the regular fee may be sent with their answers to the Institute.

Let every reader of the *STUDENT* make it his duty to spread the knowledge of these examinations in his community, to bring them to the notice of ministers and Sunday School superintendents. Let him take a personal interest in advancing a work which has for its chief end the desire to arouse a general interest in Bible study, and to bring to the people the intelligent Scriptural knowledge which has been in the past confined to scholars and theologians.

\* For Bible club pamphlet explaining this plan, address William R. Harper, New Haven, Conn.